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Message Text

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67
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /116 W
---------- 030920
R 161700Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5515
INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 6778

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GR
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SPECULATION CONTINUES

1. WEEKEND PRESS CONTINUED FOCUS ON POLITICAL THEMES. WHILE MUCH OF COMMENTARY CONSTITUTES RE-HASH OF TOPICS ALREADY DISCUSSED EXHAUSTIVELY IN PREVIOUS WEEKS, SEVERAL NEW ITEMS EMERGED

2. KATHIMERINI, IN ITS FIRST EDITION SINCE 1967 MILITARY COUP, PURPORTED SEPTEMBER 15 TO PRESENT VIEWS OF FORMER PM KANELLOPOULOS. HE REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THAT ELECTIONS SHOULD NOT BE HELD IN HASTE AND THAT IN ANY EVENT PRIOR TO ELECTIONS STATUS OF MONARCHY MUST BE DETERMINED; THAT FORMATION OF "FRONTS" NOT DESIRABLE FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES SINCE THEY MIGHT EXCLUDE SOME SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL PERSONALITIES, WHICH COULD PROVE DETRIMENTAL TO DEVELOPMENT OF NEW POLITICAL CADRES; AND THAT SIMPLE PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM DESIRABLE IN NEXT ELECTIONS SINCE IT WOULD GUARANTEE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FORCES AND WOULD AVOID "CREATION OF FANATICISM".

3. ELEFTHEROS COSMOS MEANWHILE FORESEES THAT CIRCUMSTANCES WILL NOT PERMIT CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS DURING 1974. AKROPOLIS PUSHED CONTRARY VIEW, STRESSING PM CARAMANLIS IN HIS PRIVATE TALKS HAS DEMONSTRATED DEFINITE DESIRE TO HOLD ELECTIONS AS
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SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT MAY

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HANDLE SERIOUS NATIONAL PROBLEMS. TO VIMA ASSERTS
THAT PREVAILING VIEW WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT FAVORS PRESENTING
BROAD FRONTS TO THE ELECTORATE, AND IT SUGGESTS THAT
CARAMANLIS IS PREPARED TO HEAD A GROUPING WHICH WOULD INCLUDE
MESSRS. MAVROS, MANGAKIS AND PESMAZOGLOU. KATHIMERINI
PROGNOSTICATES THAT KKE WILL SOON BE LEGALIZED, THAT WITHIN WEEK
OR SO FUNCTIONING OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE PERMITTED, AND
THAT MARTIAL LAW WILL BE LIFTED SHORTLY. KATHIMERINI ALSO
DESCRIBES DISARRAY WITHIN THE LEFT AND IMPLIES THAT WITHIN
NEXT WEEK NAMES OF THOSE SUPPORTING ANDREAS PAPANDREOU WILL
BE REVEALED. FINALLY, KATHIMERINI REPORTS ALLEGED VIEWS
OF JOHN ZIGDIS TO THE EFFECT THAT ELECTIONS CANNOT TAKE PLACE
BEFORE THOSE QUILTY OF CRIMES RELATING TO DICTATORSHIP,
CYPRUS COUP AND TORTURES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO JUSTICE

4. COMMENT: AFTERNOON PAPERS SEPTEMBER 16 TEND TO PAY
SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THEMES IN KATHIMERINI, THE NEWLY
REPUBLISHED VLACHOU ORGAN. IT APPEARS THAT RETURN OF THIS
PRESTIGIOUS NEWSPAPER TO GREEK KIOSKS ALREADY BEGINNING TO
ADD SPECIAL ELEMENT OF EXCITEMENT AND EXTRA DIMENSION TO
JOURNALISTIC WORLD AND ITS READERSHIP.
STEARNS

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